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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
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Item 41 of the preliminary list**
SUPPORT BY THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM
OF THE EFFORTS OF GOVERNMENTS TO
PROMOTE AND CONSOLIDATE NEW OR
RESTORED DEMOCRACIES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-first year

Letter dated 20 March 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine issued on 15 March 1996 concerning the adoption of the resolution of the State Duma of the Russian Federation dated 15 March 1996 on the closer integration of the peoples which had united into the USSR and the repeal of the decision of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic of 12 December 1991 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 41 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Anatoli M. ZLENKO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Ukraine
to the United Nations

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* Reissued for technical reasons.

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ANNEX

[Original: Russian]

Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on the adoption of the resolution of the State Duma of the Russian Federation dated 15 March 1996 on the closer integration of the peoples which had united to form the USSR and the repeal of the resolution of the Supreme Soviet of the RSFSR of 12 December 1991

On 15 March 1996, the State Duma of the Russian Federation adopted a resolution on the closer integration of the peoples which had united to form the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the repeal of the resolution of the Supreme Soviet of the RSFSR of 12 December 1991. The Supreme Soviet's resolution of 12 December 1991 denounced the Treaty on the formation of the USSR.

In this connection, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine is authorized to state the following.

In Ukraine, the adoption of this resolution by the State Duma of the Russian Federation is regarded as an attempt by certain political circles in the Russian Federation to reactivate the former USSR. The hopes of reviving the former unified federative State are without any legal basis, including in international law, and do not reflect the realities of the political situation that has emerged today both in the development of the independent countries that have been formed on the territory of the former USSR and in the development of the Commonwealth of Independent States as a whole. Ukraine condemns such actions as constituting a threat to the peace and stability not only of those States, but also of the entire world community.

More than four years ago, Ukraine exercised its right to self-determination in accordance with the universally accepted principles and norms of international law embodied in the Charter of the United Nations and the Helsinki Final Act. The will of the Ukrainian people to establish an independent Ukrainian State was accorded the highest form of legitimacy through the results of the nationwide referendum held on 1 December 1991. Almost 92 per cent of the population voted for Ukraine's independence.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine is authorized to state that the adoption by the State Duma of the Russian Federation of the above resolution entails no legal consequences for Ukraine, in that it is a domestic instrument of the Russian Federation and cannot have extraterritorial jurisdiction. Moreover, implementation of the resolution will in fact mean the withdrawal of the Russian Federation from the Commonwealth of Independent States with all the unpredictable consequences to which that might lead.

Ukraine, as a founder member of the Commonwealth of Independent States, has from the very beginning of that institution's existence pursued a policy of closer and broader equitable and mutually advantageous cooperation within the

Commonwealth, and takes it that the modalities of its participation, as well as its status within the Commonwealth of Independent States, are determined by the legislative instruments adopted by the Supreme Council of Ukraine on ratifying the Agreement establishing the Commonwealth of Independent States and by the associated reservations. Ukraine will continue in the future to proceed on the understanding that the establishment of the Commonwealth of Independent States made possible to maintain under new historical circumstances the close and multifaceted links that existed between the Republics of the former Soviet Union and to prevent the emergence on the territory of the former USSR of dangerous trends which could lead to general instability and serious conflicts.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine cannot but draw attention to the fact that, against a background of advancing processes of the strengthening and deepening of bilateral and multilateral relations within the Commonwealth of Independent States, certain political forces in individual States members of that Commonwealth are taking steps that could make the situation in the Commonwealth of Independent States much more complicated. The above-mentioned decision by the State Duma of the Russian Federation may be viewed in precisely this light.

Kiev, 15 March 1996